of the local telephone exchange authorities and other cognate matter being replies to quickly, has been made; if so, to what extent;

(b) whether it has become the established practice with some of the Area Managers' Offices particularly with the AM(S) not to reply to even registered communications addressed to them by subscribers and whether the Divisional Engineers under him also followed the same; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to make this institution more service-oriented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No such formal assessment has been made about the working of the Area Managers. However, Deputy General Manager (Public Relations) has been asked to monitor the functioning of various public grievance cells of Area Managers offices with a view to further improve their functioning.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of the above. However, in addition to the Public Grievance Cells and Customer Service Centres already functioning at the office of the Area Manager, public counters have been shifted on ground floors in South area so that the complaints are attended at a single point there itself.

Defective functioning of telephones in U.P.

2185. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the defective functioning of telephones in a large number of places in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the telephone exchanges in that State maintain any daily record to the defective functioning of telephones;

(c) if so, what is the number of such complaints during each of the last two years; and

(d) if the answer to (b) above be in the negative, whether Government will issue instructions to Telephone exchanges to maintain such records?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes Sir; Functioning of telephones in Uttar Pradesh is monitored daily, weekly and monthly basis at different levels of the department.

(b) Yes, Sir. For large telephone systems, standard complaints dockets for each complaint is prepared and for smaller exchanges complaints are recorded in registers.

(c) The total number of complaints received during the last two years i.e. 1983-84 and 1984-85 are 6.75 and 7.01 lakhs respectively which means 1.7 and 1.6 complaints per 100 telephones per day are booked.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply as at (c) above.

Effect of import policy on indigenous machine building industry

2186. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any exercise to know how far the new import policy with regard to high-technology machinery under OGL on a large scale will affect the growth of the indigenous machine building industry and discourage the prospective entrepreneurs against modernisation; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) The placing of items on OGL has been done on the basis of excercises which took into account the status of indigenous industry and its capabilities Placing of the high-technology machinery on OGL will not discourage but facilitate modernisation.

Decision for off-shore supply vessels

2187. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:
SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission revised its earlier decision for off-shore supply vessels and off-shore platform-support-cum stand by vessels from indigenous shipyards to foreign shipyards;

(b) if so, what are the detailed reasons therefor, at what level revised decision was taken and what benefits are likely to accrue to ONGC therefrom;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indian ship-builders offer prices comparable to the international parity prices plus Government subsidy;

(d) whether it is also a fact that foreign shipyards are setting cheaper raw materials greater Government subsidy and better book position;

(e) if so, whether Government are planning to review its policy in the light thereof; and

(f) if the answer to (e) be in the negative what are the detailed reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Indian shipyards can get a 30 per cent subsidy based on the international parity price. Sometimes the prices quoted by them are even higher than this.

(d) Such statistics are not available.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The incentives already available to the Indian shipyards fabricating various kinds of vessels for the ONGC are considered adequate.

Financial irregularities by M/s. Lagan Jute Machinery Company Limited, Hooghly, West Bengal

†2188. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint regarding mismanagement of finances and malpractices by M/s. Lagan Jute Machinery Company Limited of Angus, Champdany, Hooghly, West Bengal;

(b) whether any inquiry has been made in this connection and if so, what is the result thereof; and

(c) what steps, Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c). Only one complaint making certain allegations against the management of M/s. Lagan Jute Machinery Company Ltd. has been received from the Lagan Jute Machinery Shramik Karamchari Union. The allegations have been looked into and found to be baseless.

Licences for setting up electronic units in Meghalaya

2189. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of licences and letters of intent issued so far for setting up Electronic Units in Meghalaya;

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†Previously Unstarred Question No. 1903 transferred from the 13th August, 1985.